

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

Visiting a farm

Minimising biosecurity risks is a shared responsibility

Every time you enter a property you have the potential to spread pests, diseases and weeds. Minimising these risks is a shared responsibility between you and the land manager.

As a visitor or farm worker, you should make yourself aware of the potential biosecurity risks you pose. You need to be proactive and take your own steps to reduce these risks.

How can you help manage the risk?

Many properties will have their own biosecurity management plan. When entering a property, you should check with the land manager if they have a biosecurity management plan in place and what you need to do to comply with the plan or any other requirements.

Biosecurity management plans

Where a biosecurity management plan is in place, you must comply with the measures outlined in the plan. These aim to prevent, eliminate, and minimise the biosecurity risks posed by people, vehicles and any equipment entering a property.

Failure to comply may be an offence under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Know the signs

Keep an eye out for any signs both within the property and at the boundaries. These could be advising of biosecurity protocols to be followed and your responsibilities as a visitor or farm worker.

You can ask the land manager for a copy of the biosecurity management plan and talk with them about your obligations. Forearmed is fore warned.

For more information about the Act, visit our website or contact us:

W www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

E biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Never assume however that the absence of a sign means there are no protocols to be followed – you should always consider how you can minimise the biosecurity to properties you are visiting.



Example of signs that can be placed around property.

Reducing unnecessary access

You can help minimise the risk of pests, diseases and weeds establishing and spreading between properties by limiting unnecessary access.

Proactive activities can include the following:

- Minimising the number of vehicles and equipment you may bring onto the property.
- Staying clear of any high risk areas on the property, don't touch stock or plant materials unless it is necessary to do so.
- Sticking to designated roads, car parks and paths.

“Come clean, go clean”

Ensuring you, any equipment and your vehicles are not carrying any unwanted pests, diseases and weeds is a simple yet highly effective way of minimising the risk.

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You can ensure you “come clean, go clean” by

- Thoroughly washing your vehicle before entering a property
 - Make sure the wash down location is away from production and other sensitive areas and does not drain into waterways or cropping areas.
- Scrub and wash down your boots before entering or leaving the property and production areas.
- Ensure all tools and equipment have been properly cleaned and not carrying any unwanted passengers.

Remember to check if there are any further steps the land manager would like you to take to ensure nothing is carried onto or off the farm. This could be particularly relevant on properties undertaking intensive agriculture such as piggeries and poultry farms.

Where have you been?

There may be other activities you have undertaken prior to the visit that would increase the biosecurity risk you may pose. Before entering consider; risk

- What other farms have you visited in the recent past and could there be any risks involved in that?
- Have you been in contact with any stock that you suspect might have been sick in the past 48 hours?
- Have your boots and clothes been washed since you last entered a farm or came in contact with stock?

If you have any doubt, you are best to inform the land manager to be sure you are meeting your obligations and minimising the biosecurity risks to the property.

For more information

If you have any further questions about your general biosecurity duty or biosecurity in general:

- visit our web site at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/legislation> or,
- email biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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